

"The Labour Leader is, by all odds, the handsomest Labour Paper that has yet come under my notice."

THOMAS G.
BROPHY.

Somerville, U.S.

The Labour Leader

A WEEKLY RECORD OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROGRESS.

"The Labour Leader is the most successful effort in Labour Journalism yet made."

J. MORRISON
DAVIDSON.

Come forth from the valley, come forth from the hill,
Come forth from the workshop, the mine, and the mill.
From pleasure or slumber, from study or play,
Come forth in your myriads to aid us to-day:
There's a word to be spoken, a deed to be done,
A truth to be uttered, a cause to be won.

Edited by
KEIR HARDIE.

Come, youths, in your vigour; come, men, in your prime;
Come, age, with experience fresh gathered from time;
Come workers, you're welcome; come, thinkers, you must!
Come thinkers, you're welcome as the guides of the world;
Come, the leaves of the tree glistening bright in the sun
There's a truth to be told, and a cause to be won.

—Charles MacKay.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

18th JULY.

A Word with the Northern Pitmen.

By THE EDITOR.

The first article of a series, specially written for the *Labour Leader*, commences this week, entitled

LIFE AND DEATH IN THE COALFIELDS.

THE FIRST ARTICLE DEALS WITH MICKLEFIELD; A DESOLATED VILLAGE; £15,000 SUBSCRIBED; WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE MONEY, WIDOWS, AND ORPHANS?

The Durham Miners' Gala Day is on July 18th, when the *Labour Leader* will be on sale. Will readers willing to aid send their names at once to the Glasgow Office.

STRICTLY LONDON.

By MARXIAN.

On Sir Hercules Robinson, the £153 a week Governor of Cape Colony, departing for England, that very knowing journal, the *Natal Witness*, devoutly came out with the headline, "Thank God he's going." But Mr. Chamberlain—his punishing face is getting more deeply lined and his hair shows grey at last—has never visited South Africa, and he sees in Sir Hercules a kindred victim, or intended victim, of the great Rhodesian stroke of state. Thus, with melancholy faithfulness, the Colonial Secretary who knew nothing of the raid, sticks by the Cape Governor who knew nothing of the raid. That is the meaning of Joe's answer to Willie Redmond that Sir Hercules "expects to return to South Africa"—an answer received in chilling silence by his own side. I wonder whether Ayward, the ex-Fenian and ex-editor of the *Natal Witness*, still acts as military secretary to the Transvaal Government?

—o—

My own impression happens to be that Joseph, strong as he is, cannot possibly save the ignorant and incompetent Robinsonian demigod. But while a shaven apparition—said to be the son of a bishop, out of a parson's daughter—dwelt pathetically on the starvation wages paid to Christians in the Gloucester—no, on the Turkish oppression of Christians in Crete, nearly two thousand miles from Gloucester, I buttonholed Mr. George Whiteley, senior member for Stockport, and adjourned to the depths of the smoke-room.

You will recollect Mr. Whiteley had, the previous Wednesday evening, forcibly told the Government that their Agricultural Rating Bill is not a democratic measure, and that it will conserve nothing—not even their own seats in the House of Commons. A significant sign of the blindness of victory is that a triumphant political party, drawing its nascent strength from the urban districts, should tolerate a Cabinet composed almost entirely of landowners. Chamberlain, Ritchie, and Goschen represent the only business element in the Cabinet. The other sixteen men belong, more or less exclusively, to the lawlord and landlord class; and Goschen tries hard to forget he has ever done anything less dignified than accept rents from his profit-purchased estate at Hawksworth.



BEFORE.
The condition of the worker before Free Trade.

But the most amazing blindness of all is indicated in the attitude of resentment assumed towards Mr. Whiteley when he honestly endeavours to wake up his leaders to the facts of the situation.

Whatever Mr. Chaplin may think—if, indeed, that gentleman possesses the physical basis of thought—Mr. Whiteley, with several other Conservatives who have not Mr. Whiteley's courage, remains firmly convinced that the pledges and prospects of the Unionist party are not confirmed by riotously forcing through the House of Commons a Bill taking ten millions sterling from the ratepayers of towns such as Stockport and handing over the money to distressed peers and squires whose exertions in the battle of life have been confined to signing receipts for rent. Mind you, these are not Mr. Whiteley's words. But beneath his courteous reserve and anxiety not to injure his political friends I could read a good deal.

Alert Conservatives of Mr. Whiteley's stamp are far more dangerous enemies to the I.L.P. than your average backboned, pledge-breaking Radical. Therefore I warn the Socialist candidate who fights Stockport that Mr. Whiteley will take some beating. We can scarcely hope to capture the two seats there. In the

other large towns the Agricultural Rating Bill may help us a little. At Stockport no.

—o—

Climbing upstairs, I listened to Willie Redmond, then wearing a dark crimson flower in his coat, slating Mr. George Curzon on the Soudan expedition. Money was being voted, so, of course, but few members were present. Colonel Lockwood, a gorgeous figure, shone almost alone on the rear Ministerial benches. And the snappish Curzon traveller was quite alone on the front bench until "Prime Minister" Brodrick joined him and dexterously showed Mr. Redmond the sole of the Brodrickian right boot. Later on Balfour drops in. Joe had left, but now he returns and chats with young Curzon. All eyes centre upon Joe—the man whose contempt for his colleagues has attained Satanic proportions. Seldom is Joe seen in the House at so late an hour. No; he doesn't speak. Balfour speaks. There has been a running fire from E. J. C. Morton—a comical-looking little monkey who studies the *Labour Leader*—and from Mr. Dalziel, following up the younger Redmond's attack. As Sir William Harcourt is not present, Dalziel naturally takes the reins. Government refuse anything more instructive than a statement that when the troops get to Dongola they will not retreat—if they can help it.

—o—

And so on, and so on, the money at last being voted—a paltry item of £50,000 or £60,000, including Lord Salisbury's £5000 salary. Outside, cabs rattle through Whitehall and Parliament Street, conveying M.P.s and revellers homeward. Low on the horizon swings the moon, the uncanny shadow of the planet of pain distinctly visible on part of her surface. Upward, outward, and downward, in every direction, plunge and rise the undulating abysses of Space. I am but a creature of lust and ambition, like the rest. Yet, in the summer night, I feel the meanness, the foolishness, the inhumanity of the struggle of fear, frippery, and falsehood pursued around me amid an environment so majestic and so awful. However, Lord Salisbury has got his salary.

—o—

Either you are working for Socialism or you are wasting your life. The cruel development of modern industry leaves you no escape from this dilemma. You must work for Socialism or you must waste your life. And on every wind of the heavens a wasted life goes by. I have ceased to grieve over them. I regard them as a vicious soldier regards the corpse of those flying rebs who might have been his comrades in triumph. Shut your Christian ears to the deep, inarticulate cry of the beleaguered people, and, when you shut your hands in the death you dread, you shall take hold of the terror of naked Space. Nothing shall you clasp in those dead hands save the daring service you have rendered to the children of men. Happy be he whose hands are full: who has not been afraid, nor hidden his talent in the earth.

—o—

Faster peal the cabs and the last belated omnibus. The weird, shadowed "maiden with white fire laden" glints on the massive, mullioned strength of the Abbey. That wondrous treasury was not the product of a profit-mongering age. And the lives of stout

Stephen Langton and Hubert, who saved Dover from France, were not jerry-built lives. This present age is the age of the jerry-builder. And its typical Westminster products are the sainted Monks of Gloucester, the Morleys of Montrose, and the heroic Joiceys and Tomlins.

—o—

What about Tomlinson of Berkeley Square?

—o—

Although I said the Ridley-Collings Coal Mines Bill will pass, it is more than likely first to be totally eviscerated in the interests of the coalowners. The real and important Coal Mines Bill is the one drafted to meet the views of the trade unions, and is in Sir Charles Dilke's charge. This latter Bill was ordered by the House of Commons to be printed last February. It can be obtained through any bookseller for 2d. Get it for yourself. There is not the slightest chance of the Government offering any facilities for its passage into law. I sometimes think the *Daily Chronicle* confuses the two Bills. Dilke's Bill means business. Ridley's is a quintessential bit of bluff.

—o—

Curious rumours reach me respecting the Government Bill dealing with the Army Reserves. It will be dropped in a hurry, as no Minister has the courage to face the desperate hash into which our army system has drifted. Practically there are no army reserves and very little militia. In the event of war, the Volunteer force would be under orders for active service, or we should resort at once to conscription. An expedition to the Transvaal or the Soudan would use up all our available soldiers. Who gets the bulk of the £20,000,000 expended annually on England's land forces?



AND AFTER.
Yet he is asked to celebrate its Jubilee.

Perhaps Mr. Charles Williams will investigate the matter. It would be fully as interesting to the taxpayer as his descriptions of the Russian coronation. His unpublished descriptions, I mean.

—o—

Bewildered by the maze of fiction created to conceal the connection between Krugersdorp and Dongola, the lying of Ministers grows daily more and more inartistic. Close upon Mr. Curzon's liping assurance—"This is not a British expedition, but an Egyptian expedition"—rose Lord George Hamilton's demand that the cost of troops to help the said Egyptian expedition be borne by the starving helots of our rule in India. I wish Hyndman had been in the House to criticise the proposal and the knaves

who put it forward. And I wish Mr. Vaughan Nash, of the *Daily Chronicle*, had studied coal mines as thoroughly as Hyndman has studied the Indian question. On a technical point in the Trade Union Bill, Mr. Nash upholds one view and the miners adopt another. Therefore, says Mr. Nash, the Bill is "defective." Perhaps it is. Perhaps not.

—o—

Debating, last Tuesday night, the tax of fourpence contributed by each purchaser of a pound of tea, Mr. Logan, the stalwart member for a Leicestershire division, actually uttered sound economics in the House of Commons. "What is the object of this tax?" queried Logan, with a brusque vigour that nearly woke Mr. Hanbury. "It is," went on the man from Leicestershire, "to save the pockets of those persons who pay direct taxation. Yes; where do I get the money to pay my income-tax? I get it from the wages of my workmen. What right have I to shift a tea-tax on to them as well?" And the Logan man—he is a man, too—mustered a tiny band to vote against the fourpence.

—o—

Marxian must interview that Logan man.

—o—

Please note that a reference in an earlier paragraph to Mr. E. J. C. Morton is entirely affectation. The grand style in which he bows to the Speaker constitutes so liberal and radical an education that I would not offend Mr. Morton for worlds of bread and butter. And Sir Hercules Robinson has a consolation coronet. That's all.

The Cabinet and Party Politics. By W. E. Snell (London: Ellis, Sons & Co.). This is a series of papers dealing with a big topic. Under such headings as "The Problem," "The Public Service," "Political Ethics," "Representation," and "The Remedy," Mr. Snell manages to deal with the absurd anomalies which to-day take the place of administrative government. He claims urgency for the question, and sums up his conclusions in the following proposal: "Let government servants be excluded from Parliament, and let each government department be closely supervised by a Parliamentary committee. Those wanting to know the best that can be said for this reform should consult the book itself."

Democratic Readings from the World's Great Teachers. Compiled and edited by W. M. Thompson, L.L.C. (London: John Dick. 1s.) The idea underlying this compilation is good, the execution far from perfect. In the selections from the great religious teachers it is notable, and regrettable, that whatever a sentence capable of a lascivious or dirty meaning could be found it has been dragged into a prominent place. It is an insult to the common people to couple them with a love of the present, and this feature spoils what would otherwise have been a work of much value.

The Report of the Fourth Annual Conference of the I.L.P.; Preparing for the Twentieth Century., by Bruce Wallace, M.A., and the Commonwealth. These latter contains an excellent likeness of John Ruskin. It presents the old man's face in quite a new light. Canon Scott Holland writes the accompanying note in a very sympathetic vein. The article on the "Revolt against Machinery," by John A. Hobson, will be eagerly welcomed by all engaged in combating old-world ideas on machinery.

See our enlarged editions of 1st and 2nd August for descriptive account of the International Conference, by special correspondents, and illustrated by our own artist. Make sure of getting these numbers and order early.

Between Ourselves.**WHAT ARE YOU "STANDING ON"?**

A young wife stood with her head on her broom, And looked around the little room ;

" Nothing but tell for ever," she said,

" From early morn till the light has fled.

If you were only a merchant now,

We need not live by the sweat of our brow !"

Pegging away, spanshoemaker John—

" We never see well what we're standing on."

A lady stood by her husband's chair,

And quietly passed her hand o'er his hair ;

" You never have time for me now," she said,

And a tear-drop fell on his low-bent head.

" If we were only rich, my dear,

With nothing to do from year to year,

But amuse each other—Oh, dear me,

What a happy woman I should be !"

Looking up from his ledger spoke merchant

John,

" We never see well what we're standing on."

A stately form in velvet dressed,

A diamond gleaming on her breast ;

" Nothing but tell for fashion," she said,

" Till I sometimes wish that I were dead.

Oh, could I but sing this wealth aside,

And once more be the poor man's bride !"

From his easy chair spoke gentleman John—

" We never see well what we're standing on."

..

GORDON HOLBROOK writes : I have no wish to encroach on the province of the able gentlemen who give us our "Notes from Abroad" every week, but, perhaps, I may be allowed to call attention to the view taken by the *Times* correspondent of the political situation in one of the Continental countries. In speaking of the elections which by the time this is read will have been decided in Belgium, the *Times* of last Saturday says :

There are three rival lists of candidates—the Liberals, the Clericals, and the united Progressists and Collectivists,—who call themselves the Democratic Alliance. Some apprehensions are entertained that there may be fresh accessions to the ranks of the Socialists, who, to the number of thirty-six, already occupy the left bench of the Chamber. But if the first result of the voting should be favourable to them, it is certain that the second ballot will turn scale in the direction of the Conservatives, for whom all the doctrine of the Liberal party would vote in preference to giving their support to their ancient allies, the democrats who have gone over to the Collectivists.

..

This is what the *Times* anticipates. Now see what it says of this clerical régime which the fervent Liberals of Belgium would help to support :

But because the Clerical régime proves the most enduring, it must not therefore be inferred that it is the most conducive to the advancement of the nation. A review of the labours of the last session shows that a consistently retrograde policy has marked its administration throughout. It is true that many radical reforms have been promised . . . but, so far, none of these promises have been performed. . . The additional debt has been augmented by half a milliard of francs, and the Exchequer is at its lowest ebb."

..

And now to see how the *Times* accounts for Liberals supporting such a misgovernment as this :

It many vote for them who are not in sympathy with their policy it is simply because they believe that the clerical influence is a more efficacious safeguard against the ever-spreading wave of Socialism than doctrinaire theories or Progressist concessions.

..

(Our readers, if there are any non-Socialists among them, should note that this is the difference between Belgium and England. Over here the Liberals still think that "progressist concessions" are the best Mrs. Partington's mops to wield against the wave of Socialism—that's why they give such concessions. For no other reason what-eve-r.)

And now what does the *Times* correspondent think of this dreadful Socialist party in Belgium? He says :

It is only fair, however, to state that in the social programme of reforms drawn up by the Labour party there is not only little to justify the alarm conditioned by them, but that in several instances they refer to measures which have already been endorsed by law and public opinion in England.

..

So there is nothing so dreadful after all. The whole article is very instructive as showing (1) that the fight of the Socialists will eventually have to be directed against a Clerical-Conservative party, bolstered up by Liberal runagates; and (2) that the whole world over our enemies shake at the bare name of Socialism, whatever the merits of Socialist proposals.

(Perhaps the article is also of interest because it proves that the stock of non-Socialists sufficiently well educated to be *Times* correspondents is running low, so that the poor old paper is at last giving way to the inevitable, and allowing ordinary sane men to write its foreign news !)

..

Tragedy? Yes, and plenty of it. Try this :

The other week we had an old man drawn up himself under very sad circumstances. He had been out of work and let a few weeks' rent run up on him, and the agent got an eviction order out. The poor fellow could not get work, and he left his home on the morning, taking his two young children to one of his sons, and destroyed his life. And when he was found his son took him to his home, only to find all the furniture turned into the street. The agent will go to church and say "Our Father."

..

Light comedy? Very well, sample this :

(From Cunningham Graham, Esq.)
Gartmore, near Monteith,
February 4, 1891.

Dear Mr. Craige Angus.—I am glad to hear that it is proposed to hold an exhibition in Glasgow of relics and editions of Burns (Robert, not John). It would seem that after the countless exhibitions of every thing of the most frightful kind that the ingenuity of man has imagined which have been held in Glasgow—say nothing to anything of the constant and gratuitous exhibitions always open of what civilization can do in the Trongate—that an exhibition of some interest to some human being should be held. A chaff-cutter, a patent mangle, and an automatic perambulator are not good things in their place, though you will, I doubt not, pardon me for venturing to think that the place most suited to them . . . An exhibition which, I suppose, will chiefly be composed of books will be novelty in Glasgow. That it may have a civilizing and a humanizing influence upon those whose eyes are debouched by the too frequent contemplation of the aforesaid mangles and perambulators is my earnest wish. I should add especially when well bound, tooled, and on good paper; but these be toys, delightful, no doubt, to men of culture and skilled craftsmen who produced them; the essential is the book, and, after all, Burns needs no fine feathers. Still though, I do not think that Burns would like to condemn his works to the "Habit Rope" of the poet to which, when alive, society not unnaturally condemned him, to mark its disapprobation of contemporary genius. As the breed of poets seems scarce just now in North Britain, and as the fashion is still even in Scotland amongst many to speak of Burns as a sort of old, dim-witted, inspired idiot, this exhibition in I think, unlike most other exhibitions, called for, it would be a joy in Glasgow—a man can be held in honour who never made money, and devoted some part of his talents to the affairs of the "infernal poor."—Yours very truly,

R. B. CUNNINGHAM GRAHAM.
..

That must suffice for a week. The summons is returnable for Tuesday, and there is much to be done.

KEIR.

KILBURN STRIKE SETTLED.—Kilburn fire-dressers' dispute, referred to in the *Leader* of last week and week previous, has been settled by Messrs. J. & W. Knox accepting the men's terms.

YORKSHIRE MINERS AND TRADES CONGRESS.—The Rylands Main miners have forwarded the following resolution to Yorkshire Miners' Association : "That the delegates to the forthcoming Trades-Union Congress shall support the nationalisation of the land, and means of production, distribution, and exchange."

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QUICKLY CORRECT ALL IRREGULARITIES,
REMOVE ALL OBSTRUCTIONS, and relieve the
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A BOOKISH CAUSERIE.**PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.**

How the Devil was Made, etc. Rev. Dennis Hird, M.A. 1s. and 2s. (Clement Wilson, 2s. Paternoster Row, E.C.)

Ax intuitionist of the order of the "One-ists" recently said to me, "The creation of God was the first breach of economics." Certainly from the Rev. David Hird's latest book it appears that the creation of the devil became a fact only when man had lost that harmony with the universal which is the attribute of real sanity.

Looked at in one way, the dualism which is unconsciously revealed in the antagonistic conceptions of God and the devil, of good and evil, is itself a sign of insanity: and the pitiable persistence with which men have clung to the terroristic creed defines the enormous distance they have fallen from the grace of harmony.

The fact that the author of this brave book is a Church of England clergyman is enough to give it importance. That the four articles which compose it were originally intended as sermons is of still greater importance. Most significant of all is the fact that the author has suffered persecution from people of every class for having dared to call into question the infallibility of the Bible and the Church. However, the Rev. Dennis Hird is quite capable of taking care of himself. He has an able pen and a style which for downright simplicity approaches Ruskin's "For Claviger."

What is more, he has an argument which is unassailable, and I for one should not divert energy for his defense. His original purpose of preaching these sermons was frustrated by the horror-stricken natives of Eastnor, who feared that in discussing the Bible on any other lines than those laid down by the Church he was endangering "the faith of the working man." Their consideration for the working man's faith was very touching: but I doubt not it has strained at the gnat and swallowed a camel. These lectures will, I hope, circulate widely, and certainly they will have a wider field of influence now than the narrow, dogmatic corner of inconspicuous Eastnor could have given them. For so much we may be grateful to "Lady E. B."

"Twas ever thus. While George Meredith is warning us in the *Daily Chronicle* of the perils which England runs in scorning "the brain's wild search for virtuous light," and our parsons and teachers and writers are insisting on the importance of being earnest about "the eternal verities," "people of high character and noble purpose use such arguments as these : 'You will blight your professional career,' 'Do not quarrel with your bread and butter.' It is a serious responsibility to destroy the faith of the working man."

"Destroy the faith of the working man, forsooth! Which faith? When I see a man toiling from daylight to dark always, living without a noble thought, never reading the Bible or any book with a glorious aspiration in it, dividing his Sundays between admiration of the pig and slandering his neighbours, never entering church for twenty years (not counting weddings and funerals), and then when he is so ill as to be scarcely conscious his friends think the person is paid to come and square the next world, and administer holy communion, and finally bury him 'in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life'! I confess frankly that I do not want to destroy that man's faith! I would rather give him the shock of the blunkest, cruellest truth than stand smiling by whilst he goes his swinish shuffle through life, till his funeral forms a part of the universal parish fraud." Such is our comrade's answer

to the tender considerations of those who would bolster up the present anarchy by ignorance. For the truth of his picture of rural religion, which is limited to Sunday show, I can vouch: and if discussion of the devil and all his works could avail anything to destroy a faith which is no faith I, with the Rev. Dennis Hird, would impugn the historical accuracy of the Bible, deny the existence of the devil, and declare Jesus a Socialist.

—o—

But it seems to me that mere discussions of the mistakes about and in the Bible, or even of the creation of man and the devil, can serve little useful purpose. They embitter at least as many as they help, and their direction, though probably unintentional, is that resistance to evil which is the beginning of evil. I entirely agree—and most Socialists will—with the intention of the author. If there were even a figurable percentage of persons who would be as true to themselves in scorn of consequences as the Rev. Dennis Hird, England would be a better England, and "Lady E. B." might not be so applauded. But, after all, as hatred ceases not by hatred at any time, but by love, so the old bogies and fetishes which still terrify the ignorant are not to be dissolved into "everlasting blue mist" by skillful analysis and the obloquy of logic, but by the substitution of light for the darkness they inhabit. Let the persons preach love, not Biblical criticism—eternal harmony, not scientific evolution. The devil is the correlative of God. While the conception of one lasts, so long will the conception of the other endure. Carpenter, in "The Secret of Time and Satan," has some deep meanings expressed. God and Satan are one. It was the first breach of cosmic economy which created the duality, and it is back to unity that mankind must travel by slow, painful, conscious steps. —o—

Let the persons hold up their eyes to the goal. The Rev. Dennis Hird is a pioneer. His book, which I can cordially recommend to comrades, and which can be had from Publishing Department, *Labour Leader* office, 66 Brunswick Street, Glasgow, is the good which cometh out of Nazareth, and I could only desire that even the Rev. Dr. Earle, whom the Bishop of London has recently pitchforked into the rectory of St. Botolph Without, with a salary of £3000 a year, may be encouraged to go and do likewise.

A. R. O.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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A. 0 0 2 0 0
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A. 0 0 2 0 0
Sam E. Field. 0 0 1 0 0
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MEETINGS.

RELEASE OF LEONARD HALL

DEMONSTRATION

SATURDAY, 11th JULY, 1896,

ASSEMBLE IN

SOUTHALL STREET, STRANGWAYS,
at 7 p.m.March in Procession to STEVENSTON SQUARE
Headed by a Brass Band.Comrades and Sympathisers attend in your
Thousands.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS.

Crystal Palace Fete
SATURDAY, 1st AUGUST.

TICKETS—Railway Return and Admission, 1s. 3d.

Dinner and Entertainment, 2s. 6d.

To be obtained at S.D.F., I.L.P., Fabian, Clarion, and L.T.C. Offices; and Tillett, 19 Buckingham Street, Strand.

MEETINGS—(Continued).

COLNE VALLEY LABOUR UNION.

3rd ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION

On Sunday, 19th July, 1896.

Brass Band and Procession to Slaithwaite. March at 2.30 prompt. Mass Meeting on Reservoir Banks.

Speakers: TOM MANN and others.

Chair taken at 3.15. Collection. Tea in Slaithwaite Labour Club, 6d. each. If wet, Meeting will be held in the Co-operative Hall.

Note—All unattached Socialists and Clarion Cycling Corps are earnestly invited to join the Procession.—CHAR. WHITMAN, Gen. Secy.

RIGHT OF PUBLIC MEETING IN BOGGART HOLE CLOUGH.

A GREAT DEMONSTRATION

IN THE CLOUGH
ON SUNDAY, 12th JULY, 1896, at 3 p.m.

SPEAKER: KATHARINE ST. JOHN (Mrs. Bruce Glazier), CITIZENS OF MANCHESTER, ASSERT YOUR RIGHTS

HALTON (Leeds District) I.L.P.

On BANK HOLIDAY, MONDAY, 3rd AUG.

SPORTS, TEA & GAMES

to commence as follows—

SPORTS, 2 p.m.; TEA, 5 p.m.; GAMES, 6A, 8.30 p.m.

Sports—Football and Cricket, etc.; Games, 9A.

Clarion Cyclists are cordially invited, and a Master Prize of One Guinea will be given.

Tom Cowell, Hon. Secy., Halton, near Leeds.

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BOGGART HOLE CLOUGH DEFENCE FUND.

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ST. MARY'S, 0 1 0 0

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LIVERPOOL, 0 1 0 0

CHESTER HILL I.L.P., 4th July, 0 3 5 6

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and will always remain the instrument of the domination of a class or party? Or because we believe that the new society ought to be organised by the direct agreement of all concerned, from the circumference to the centre, freely, spontaneously, under the inspiration of the sentiment of solidarity and under the pressure of natural and social necessities, and because that if this organisation was made by means of decrees from a central body, either elected or a directorship, it will begin by being an artificial organisation, forcing and dissatisfactioning everybody, and it would end in the creation of a new class of professional politicians, who would seize for themselves all sorts of privileges and monopolies? It might easily be maintained with more justice that we are, if not the only Socialists, certainly the most thorough and logical, because we claim for every man, not only his entire portion of social wealth, but also his part in social power—that is to say, the real faculty of making his influence felt equally with that of others in the management of public affairs.

If we are Socialists, then it is clear that a congress from which we are excluded cannot honestly call itself "The Socialist Workers' Congress," and that it ought to take the particular title of the party or parties admitted to its deliberations. For example, none of us would think of mixing with a congress which would be called a "Social Democratic Congress" or a "Congress of Parliamentary Socialists."

But let us leave alone this question of nomenclature, and neglect also the discussion of the question, if the London Committee has properly interpreted the resolutions of Zurich. Let us go to the root of the matter. It is to the interest of all the enemies of our capitalist society that the workers should be united and solid in the struggle against capitalism, and that they should be conscious that this struggle is of necessity of an economic character. It is not because we ignore the importance of political questions. We believe not only that government—the state—is an evil in itself, but that it is the armed defence of capitalism, and that the people cannot take possession of their own property without passing over the bodies of its armed police—really or figuratively, according to circumstances. Thus we ought necessarily to occupy ourselves in the political struggle against government. But it may be owing to the difference of conditions and of temperaments of the peoples of various countries, or the fact that the relations between the political constitution and the conditions of the masses are very complicated, hard to adapt and less capable of being treated in a way that seems good to everybody, that politics are in effect a great source of division, and the fact is that the conscious workers in the different countries whom it would be easy to solidly unite in the economic struggle, are by politics broken up into many fractions. Consequently an understanding between all the workers who fight for their emancipation is not possible, save on economic ground—and it is this that is of most consequence, because political action of the proletariat, parliamentary or revolutionary, is equally futile so long as it does not form a conscious organised economic force. Every attempt to enforce a single political opinion upon the labour movement tends to its disintegration and stops the progress of its economic organisation.

The Social Democrats evidently desire to force upon the workers their special programme. It might almost be said that they want to prevent those who do not accept the decisions of their party from fighting for human emancipation! They have had in this direction more or less success—perhaps they will have more—but that can only take place at the expense of a general understanding among the workers, and certainly without desiring it, serving the interests of the middle classes. If Socialists would only remember the history of the old International, which certainly the old among them know better than it is generally related. There were plenty of insults between Marxists and Bakunists. The truth is that both sections wished to make its special

programme triumphant in the International, and in the struggle between Centralism and Federalism, between Statism and Anarchism, we neglected the class struggle and economic solidarity, and the International perished through it. To-day the Anarchists, though we owe to them in many countries the first Socialist trade unions, by a series of circumstances and errors which there is no need at present to examine, have not much influence—save in Spain—in the Labour movement. But this will not last long, and the Social Democrats would do wrong to reckon upon it.

Certainly the Anarchists will soon be brought by the logic of their programme and by the necessities of the struggle to put their strength and their hope in the international organisation of the masses of the workers.

those that believe as they believe, but that all shall be united in the economic struggle.

Then, if the Social Democrats persist in their attempt at military despotism, and thus sow dissension among the workers, may the latter be able to understand and bring to a glorious triumph the noble words of Marx: "Workers of the world, unite!"

Familiar words in a strange tongue always have a curious effect. The following is a translation of Burns's well-known lines, referred to approvingly by the *Petite République* recently:

The rank is but the guinea stamp,
The man's the gold for a' that.
Le rang n'est que l'empreinte
De la guinée; c'est l'homme
Qui est l'or, malgré tout ça,
Malgré tout ça!

Adjournment of the discussion was more than once moved, but was rejected. The whole of the clauses were carried, and the House finally adjourned at twenty minutes past eight on Tuesday morning, having sat all Monday night.

TUESDAY.

West Highland Railway Guarantee Bill. Second reading. Mr. Strachey moved an amendment preventing special financial assistance being given to Scotch railways. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said the guarantee which the Government proposed of 3 per cent. on the cost of the railway, £260,000, and of £30,000 for a new pier, was for the purpose of developing the fishing industry of the Scotch Highlands. Amendment defeated by 235 to 67, and Bill read a second time. Conciliation (Trades Disputes) Bill. Second reading moved by Mr. Ritchie, who said that the Bill

Trade. Mr. Chaplin moved the second reading of the Locomotives on Highways Bill, which proposes to amend the law with respect to the use of locomotives on roads, with the object of providing the public with some such cheap and easy mode of transport as is so largely used abroad. A locomotive, as described by the Bill, is not to emit any visible smoke or vapour. After some favourable discussion the Bill was read a second time and referred to Standing Committee on Law.

WEDNESDAY.

Mr. Chaplin moved the third reading of the Agricultural Land Rating Bill. Mr. Asquith, in moving that the Bill be read that day three months, said that in his opinion the Bill was intended to compensate the landed interest for the Finance Act of 1894. It was not necessary from the fact that the average rates in county boroughs were 4s. 6d. in the £, and in rural districts only 2s. 3d. He entirely approved of the strenuous opposition which had been offered to the Bill. Mr. Whitley (Conservative, Stockport) said the Bill was repugnant to electors in towns and urban districts. If any Lancashire member denied this let them both resign their seats and take the vote of the electors. The question was not before the country at the last election. He believed the only sound and economical way of assisting the producer in agriculture was by a large reduction of rents. The third reading was carried by 222 to 140.

THURSDAY.

The Home Secretary in reply to Mr. John Ellis, said the number of lives lost in coal mines from explosions was in 1890, 319; 1891, 76; 1892, 146; 1893, 175; 1894, 329; 1895, 76; first six months of this year, 160. Scotch Rating Bill, introduced by the Lord-Advocate, provides for the same relief to Agricultural Rates in Scotland as was given by the Land Rating Bill in England. The plan of applying relief would, however, have to be different, as in Scotland rates were equally divided between owner and occupier. The method, therefore, would be to reduce the agricultural occupiers' rates by three-eights and reduce his valuation to three-eighths. They proposed also to take a sum of £15,000 a year to form the nucleus of a congested districts board. For these purposes a yearly sum of £214,500 would be required. In Committee a resolution was carried by 255 to 75 authorising the expenditure of £3,000,000 out of the Consolidated Fund for the construction of a railway in Africa from Mombasa to Uganda. Coal Mines Bill. Second reading. The Home Secretary explained the provisions of the Bill. First, to give the Home Secretary special powers of amending the rules under the general Act which regulates such matters as description of lights or lamps used in a mine, description of explosives, mode of dealing with and storing them, watering and efficient damping of the mine, etc.; second, furnishing plans of abandoned mines; third, dealing with the check-weighting and track system (this part of the Bill would be withdrawn as it was opposed); fourth, to give power to prohibit a certain class of explosives. Provision was made for arbitration if any objection were taken to the special rules laid down by the Home Secretary. Mr. Asquith warmly supported the Bill, and suggested that in place of the costly and dilatory procedure by arbitration it would be sufficient if the special rules were allowed to come into force after having lain for a certain period on the table of the House. Sir Charles Dilke said there was a good deal of exaggeration in the approval of the Bill, as it was a very slight one, and carried them only a little way. The Miners' Conference Bill contained thirty-three clauses and the present Bill only nine, two of which were to be dropped. Mr. John Burns urged the Home Secretary to eliminate the amendments of both masters and men in Committee, so that the Bill might be got through without delay. Bill then read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Trade.

FRIDAY.

Committee of Supply. Vote of £51,096 for the Foreign Office was agreed to after discussion as to affairs in Armenia, Crete, and the Soudan Expedition, and Venezuela.

See our enlarged editions of 1st and 8th August for descriptive account of the International Congress, by special correspondents, and illustrated by our own artist. Make sure of getting these numbers and order early.



One begs—and gets left; the other takes—and leaves.

Already eloquent signs of this can be seen. What will happen then? Will there be again two Internationals, waging in internal quarrels the strength which ought to be employed against the capitalist middle classes, and will they again end in killing each other?

We have no intention of demanding far from that—that the different parties and schools should renounce their programme and their tactics. We hold to our own ideas, and we understand that the others will do the same. We only ask that division shall not be carried where it ought not to be; we demand the right for every worker to fight against capitalism hand in hand with his brothers, without distinction of political ideas; we ask that all shall fight as they think best, with

PARLIAMENTARY PEMMICKAN.

Monday, 29th June, to Friday, 3rd July.

MONDAY.

Upon the motion of Mr. Balfour the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule was passed. Land Rating Bill. Report stage. Amendments of a technical character to the various clauses of the Bill were in every instance rejected by large majorities. They dealt principally with such questions as the division of rates value between house and buildings and land; the local authority to whom payments from the Exchequer were to be made; the provision for appeals against assessment under the Bill, etc. The closure was frequently applied upon the motion of Mr. Balfour, although it was occasionally rejected by the Speaker.

recognised the existing boards of conciliation in the country, and would assist rather than interfere with them. It provided that where boards of conciliation did not at present exist the Board of Trade might take steps to create them; also in cases where differences existed, or upon the application of either of the parties to a dispute, the Board of Trade should intervene upon their own initiative and appoint a conciliator or board of conciliation. Sir Charles Dilke thought that where they had powerful trade unions there was no necessity for such a Bill. Mr. Pickard said the Bill would interfere with the wages of workmen. Employers and workmen alike believed they could settle their business more satisfactorily without the intervention of a third party. After further discussion, the Bill was read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Trade.

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Mistress and Maidens.

An Edinburgh correspondent sends me a newspaper cutting dealing with the question of women and farm labour. It appears from a statement made recently at a meeting of the acting committee of the Inverness Farmer's Society, that although, not so long ago, women took part in nearly all the work of the farm, there is now a difficulty in getting them to undertake farm labour of any kind. In some parts of the country farmers are getting their cows milked by men and boys.

The writer of the article recognises that there has, during the past fifteen or twenty years, been a gradual evolution in the condition of women in connection with manual labour of all kinds, and that although the introduction of machinery for certain parts of farm work will no doubt to a certain extent account for the changes referred to, there are, he believes, other and more deep-seated causes than that.

"Women," he says, "whether it be for their good or for their evil, are steadily leaving country work not only in the field but in the kitchen. People of moderate means in towns, even where girls are numerous, find it difficult to get a general servant. On the other hand shops in villages, towns, and cities, are crammed with young girls serving for three, five, and six shillings a week, and in many cases living in starvation so as to keep up an appearance. After they arrive at maturity they drift away somewhere, but certainly not into farm work, or domestic service. This is not by any means what it should be. In fact it is developing into a great social and economic problem. There are several branches of farm work not suited for women, and they are well out of these. But what objection can there be to milking cows? What objection can there be to washing or baking or cleaning a house? The ends of a woman's existence no doubt go beyond these, but practical work and a little manual labour will do her no harm, mentally or physically."

So many causes combine to bring about such changes that one can hardly venture to attribute them to any one particularly specified; but, apart from the fact that, the present day tendency being one of unrest and desire for amusement and excitement, both men and women are drawn away from the quiet of the country into the feverish bustle of the town, there are, I think, two reasons why women are apparently revolting against a purely domestic life whether in town or country. The first is that it has no limitation of the hours of labour. As the old rhyme has it, "a woman's work is never done." There is no part of the day when she can feel that she is her own mistress. Except when she has her "afternoon out" she feels that her whole time has been bought and paid for; that she must be at the beck and call of her employers morning, noon, and night.

And so, as women are beginning to long and to cry for liberty and freedom just as men are doing, they are willing to sacrifice even the prospect of a comfortable home life, whether in farm or domestic service, to the hardships which, however severe, are still associated with the idea of spare time that can be called their own. Perhaps one good result which may grow out of the changes which have brought so many women and girls into shops and factories may be to teach us eventually that all women workers have a right to some leisure time; that if an eight-hours' day is good for a man it is no less good for his wife or his maid-servant; and so we shall have to remodel and rearrange our domestic life accordingly.

The other reason which, I think, has consciously or unconsciously, helped to drive women out of domestic service is the fact that what is regarded as peculiarly women's work in the house has too long been looked upon as something menial and degrading. The domestic servant is usually looked down upon as being almost of a lower caste, and the rising generation of young

women, better educated, perhaps, in these days of free education and school boards, than was that of the past, naturally rebels against such a condition of things, choosing rather the illusory dignity of outside work at starvation wages than comparative comfort with a fancied loss of self-respect. I believe the real foundation of this degrading of women's work lies in the unnatural discrimination made in the home training of boys and girls. Boys are allowed to grow up with the idea that they demean themselves by doing any such work as their sisters are constantly called upon to perform; that it is an act of condescension on their part to assist in any kind of house-work whatever, that in such matters their sisters are their servants whose services they are at all times entitled to demand; and in this way all outside paid work becomes glorified as something honourable, while house-work is debased. What wonder if the woman of to-day, who is so largely sharing man's outside labours, should also be now beginning to share his long-seated and often openly expressed contempt for the work which once was entirely her own? The wonder would be if it were otherwise. Our social life is being turned upside down. It will take a good many changes yet before we finally bring order out of our chaos.

LILY BELL.

LIFE AND DEATH ON THE COALFIELDS.

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

I.

Micklesfield — In the Wake of a Tragedy—Widows and Orphans—£15,000 Subscribed—What will become of the Money?

About nine miles to the north-east of Leeds the traveller by the Hull express passes a little station named Micklesfield. The station opens into a village composed of three or four rows of small flat-faced poor-looking houses, built, as usual in Yorkshire, in grey stone, some with gardens at the back and some without. A portion of the land in the neighbourhood is evidently used for allotments; here and there are pig-styes and a familiar smell. A little way to the right rises the black framework of the Peckfield Colliery pit-head. In the middle of the day the place seems deserted, save for a few children here and there in quiet groups.

Micklesfield was an exceedingly common-place and uninteresting village up to the last day of April this year. Then an explosion in the neighbouring pit lifted it up on a pillar of smoke and fire, and called the attention of the public, if not to the poverty of life on the coalfields, at least to the daily dread and peril of death there. Once more it was driven in upon the popular mind that however fortunate the lot of the collier might be in other respects, and however freely he lavishes mutton chops upon his bull-dogs and champagne upon himself, he spends his working day in constant danger of being poisoned to death at the far end of a dark hole in the ground. That, indeed, is the easiest end he can look forward to in case of accident, for after-damp is very gentle, painless, and sure in its effects. But what must be the torture of the man who finds himself crushed against the door by a fall from the roof, pinned to the side of the road by a derailed car, sawn in two by a wire cable, or burnt out of human shape by a sudden blast of flame? Even if the collier did live on champagne and fat geese, which is not true, he might fairly claim to have earned them.

It is now over three months since the Micklesfield disaster, and the public has a short memory. It may be well to recall some of the facts, more especially as they illustrate very fairly the conditions under which the collier population of a large part of Yorkshire live and work. And the place has a further claim on the particular attention of Yorkshire people, because a very large sum of money has yet to be distributed amongst the families of those who lost their lives. I venture to say that if this money was subscribed for the purpose of relieving distress, and not for the purpose of providing the charity commissioners with employment, then this subject becomes one of interest to all parties concerned.

The explosion in the Peckfield pit was attended with all the usual mystery as to its cause. The colliery officials aver that this pit was always regarded hitherto as remarkably safe. On the other hand, I am informed that a disaster was foretold as certain some twelve months ago by experienced colliers, who did not hesitate to bring a charge of

carelessness against the management. I repeat the statements for what they are worth, and without offering any opinion one way or the other. What is certain is that 63 men lost their lives, of whom 41 were married, and 36 leave widows with families of young children. In all, there are 102 children under the age of 16 to be provided for; with their mothers, 138 in all. The families range in number from one child to eight and nine. Most of them are residents of Micklesfield, though some live in the neighbouring villages of Garforth and Kippax. Of these Micklesfield is comparatively quite new, having been built by the colliery company on their own land to accommodate their own workers. The men, no doubt, appreciate the advantage of living within five minutes' walk of their work, especially as Garforth and Kippax are some forty minutes off by road. Rents in the village range from 3s. 3d. to 10s. per week. There has been no abatement of rent so far as I could discover made in the case of any of those families from whom the only breadwinner was so suddenly taken.

I arrived in Micklesfield on a sunny morning in June, and received a comprehensive and rather appalling general direction from the stationmaster. "You want to see some of the widows?" he said. "Well, you'll find them in your street, pretty near every house you come to." For various reasons it may be better not to give the names of those I talked to, nor will space permit me to give their sad stories at any length. The following may be taken as typical cases:

Mrs. A., aged 65, shared a house at 3s. 6d. a week rent with her married daughter and one grandchild. Her husband, like herself, was close upon the three score years and ten, and had been so unwell since Christmas that nearly all his wages had gone for medicine. As both the old man and the young had been working only 2½ to 3 days a week for months past, it may be imagined that this was no light burden. As for herself, Mrs. A. had no plans whatever. In a place like Micklesfield every housewife has to do her own work. There was no washing, charring, or anything of that kind to be had, and even if there was she was not strong enough at her age for much of it. She had had two payments of 5s. since her husband was killed from the Sick and Accident Fund at the colliery, to which he had, of course, subscribed, because it was stopped off his wages at the office. When did she get the first 5s. Saturday week? (6th June,) and five weeks after the disaster.)

Mrs. B., her daughter, a wistful, hopeless-looking woman, looking older than her years, said she had been married four years and had one child, who was now visibly playing on the floor. For him she received 2s. 6d. a week, commencing on 6th June, as well as 5s. for herself. The united income of this household was, therefore, 12s. 6d. a week, out of which they paid 3s. 6d. rent, and had 9s. left wherewith to feed and clothe three persons. She was told that this fund would last about twelve weeks longer, and how much they would get after that she did not know. She understood there was another fund at the colliery, from which they should receive about 2s. each. No, she did not know when they would receive it, but hoped sometime. She did not wish to complain, but the money would be very useful just now.

Expressing a wish that something more substantial might be done for them, and speedily, I went a little higher up the street. "No, sir, there's been no one lost out of here, thank God," was the reply at the next house I called at; "but you might look in next door and talk to Mrs. C."

Mrs. C. wore the utterly broken-down and slatternly look of one for whom the world had proved too hard. Her face was thin, worn, and sallow, her hair gathered up into an untidy wisp, her clothing far from clean. On the floor sat a chubby little fellow of ten months, his fat face very sore and very dirty. He was the youngest of six, and the eldest was twelve years of age. She had been married for fourteen years, and had lived at Kippax, whence her husband walked three miles to his work up to four months ago. Latterly he had been working only two days a week, but she thought that their average income during their married life would have been about £1 a week when he was in work. She also had received two payments of 5s. and 2s. 6d. for each child. She did not look more than thirty, but it was easy to see that excessive child-bearing, household drudgery, and bitter poverty had broken her spirit.

Mrs. D. was quite another type, younger, stronger, and smarter looking. But then, she had had only two children. They had, she said, been "doing dreadful bed," and only the Tuesday before the accident she had urged her husband to leave the district altogether. The Saturday before he lost his life all he had to bring home was 2s. 4d., and

their rent alone was 4s. Other weeks his earnings had been 2s. 6d. for the whole week. She was now taking two lodgers, and did not wish to leave, at least until the garden produce had been gathered in.

But, undoubtedly, the saddest case which came under my notice was that of a woman out of whose house the hand of death had suddenly snatched no less than three. Her husband, a lad they had reared, and a lodger, had all gone down the shaft that morning, and she never saw them again, for the babe she held in her arms was born that very day. This was the eighth child living, and for a long time her husband had worked only two days a week. Her rent was 3s. 6d. a week, and a strip of allotment cost 5s. yearly.

These families were supplied with coal from the pit-head, about a quarter of a mile away, at the rate of 6s. 4d. a ton delivered, or 5s. 6d. not delivered. Bottom men are supplied at 5s. delivered. It may be remarked that the price paid the men for getting the same quantity of coal, after deductions for dirt have been made, is 1s. 2d. to 3s. per ton, so that the firm charges a profit of 50 per cent. or more for passing the stuff through their hands.

The main point which I wished to make clear, however, was the very important one of the distribution of relief. As already indicated, it was not at all evident that the funds which ought to have been at the disposal of the bereaved families were administered with a due regard to their pressing needs. There may have been reasons for this which were not evident to me, but it is a fact that the Sick and Accident Insurance Fund, towards which 3d. a week was stopped out of each man's wages, was not drawn upon for five weeks after the disaster occurred. And yet another fund, the Widows and Orphans, to which the men contributed 1d. a week, and which amounted to about £6 for each widow, had not been touched at all on the eighth week. These funds, be it noted, were the men's own property, having been deducted from their weekly wages at the office before they were paid. On inquiry at the cashier's office I was informed that the latter fund could not be distributed until the committee which had charge of it should meet. But on the face of it one is forced to wonder why the committee did not meet weeks before. With these facts in mind, and remembering also that in the case of other colliery accidents, such as that recently at Thornhill Lees (also in Yorkshire), it is impossible to keep free from some misgivings as to the ultimate disposal of the huge relief fund which has been accumulated by public subscription for these destitute families in Micklesfield. A sum of about £15,000 has been collected, chiefly by the newspaper, and duly vested in trustees. Is this, like so many other funds of the same sort, to be doled out in such niggardly portions that long before it is exhausted the children who should have benefited by it are grown up, and the widows whose distress it was intended to relieve are either dead or married again? If so, I venture to think that the purpose for which the public gave with such warm-hearted generosity will have been defeated. But that such a danger exists is amply proved by the history of the Victoria disaster fund, the Tonder pit explosion, the Thornhill Lees, and many other relief funds.

There is here, of course, no question of dishonest dealing, but simply of lack of intelligent sympathy, of that deplorable middle-class habit of mind which regards the workers as mental and moral infants, to be carefully preserved from all temptation to extravagance, even if what is virtually their own has to be held back from them. I have more than once heard it put forth as a maxim born of wise experience, that the sooner a working-man's widow is forced to do something for herself the better for her. Hence, the less assistance she receives the better for her, the greater the powers of self-reliance, etc., etc., she will develop. Of course a man may act on this principle in the disposal of his own money if he wishes, though in the case of a woman in his own class he probably would not act on it. But in the case of public money subscribed for a specific object such an assumption of the power of Providence becomes a gross importance and a serious wrong.

In the next article, which will deal with Rothwell, another typical Yorkshire mining village, I hope to show how it is that the collier, no matter what his habits of life may be, and what his age is at death, is inevitably and always compelled to leave his family dependent on the cruel mercies of charity.

The Paris meeting against the unexampled extradition of the six Italian refugees was attended by 2000 citizens. The Labour Leader for 1st and 8th August will be enlarged in order to give a full report of the International Congress proceedings.

PAGE WOODCOCK'S WIND PILLS**MRS. LAWRENCE**

A Farmer's Wife writes from Mid-Rawdon, Lincolnshire. I suffered severely from

INDIGESTION

And WIND IN THE STOMACH, and had to call in the doctor. Having prescribed for me some medicine, he said, "I don't know what to give you. My husband induced me to try your WIND PILLS, in a few days I was quite well and able to get up, and now enjoy excellent health. Publish my name and address."

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Here and There.

ISAAC GORDON ABROAD.—A firm of money-lenders in Melbourne, Hayling & Co., acknowledge charging £25 interest on £70 for eight months.

CANVASSING AT ELECTIONS.—The Labour Party in South Australia did not spend one penny for canvassing electors during the recent elections.

LIBERALS AND BOGART HO' CLOUGH.—At a meeting of the Bradford district of the East Manchester Liberal Association, a resolution has been passed condemning the action of the Corporation in connection with the Bogart Ho' Clough meeting.

PROPAGANDA IN FIFE.—S. D. Shallard, delivered his lecture "Workers and Strikers" to the Windygates group, Fifeshire. County Councillor T. P. Gordon, proprietor and editor of *The Scottish Poultry Journal*, occupied the chair, and gave a brief and spirited address at the close.

DUMAS AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS.—Alexander Dumas, junior, who died recently, held strong opinions on "equal rights." Having found in his mother an ardent and honest woman, he was at all times in favour of working women receiving their rights. He claimed exactly the same civil and political rights for women as for men.

A TRUE CHARACTER.—Anderson from a study of his *Labour Leader* weekly has come to the conclusion that all classes of workers can afford to buy shop employees. He thinks that masters should be compelled to give shop employees a "true character," as its necessity applies as much to them as to domestic servants. He writes as one who, among the many, has been prevented from getting a situation because of one word in a written character.

ROUSE EVERYBODY.—Mr. Thomas Connolly, who is seeking election to the Trades Union Congress, has, in violation of the rules of the A.S.E., sent the following to a member of the I.L.P., not knowing his connection with the party: "Dear Brother.—Spread the light. Must vote again. A.S.E. v. I.L.P., Connolly, 1,478; Barnes, 1,024. Must win now or never. Rouse everybody.—Thomas Connolly." Will members of the I.L.P. note this, and work accordingly in No. 4 division for Comrade Barnes.

THE LINOTYPE COMPANY AND "LABOUR LEADER."—In our issue for 20th June it was stated that the Linotype Company would require to draw on its capital to pay a reduced dividend of 2½ per cent. This, we learn, is incorrect. The statement was drawn from one of the documents of a committee of the L.C.S., being a statement which he purposed to be made from a morning contemporary. We regret the mistake, and tender our apologies to the Linotype Company for the appearance of the statement in our columns.

BARNES AND CONFESSIONERS.—The bakers and confectioners of Yorkshire commenced an active campaign in their district on Saturday last by a well-attended meeting held in the Foresters' Hall, Hull. The meeting was addressed by Edwin Halford, Bradford, president of the district; H. Whittaker, Leeds, secretary; Councillor Broadberry, of Hull; and F. Smith, of London, the union's organiser. Councillor J. Millington, J.P., presided. At the close of the meeting a number of those present came forward and joined the union, and there is every appearance that a large number of the bakers and confectioners of Hull will follow suit.

DOCKERS AND THE RUSSIAN STRIKE.—At a meeting of the Central Council of the International Ship, Dock, and Waterside Industries, held on 30th June, Tom Mann in the chair, it was resolved: "That the Council, in view of the general industrial strike now in progress in St. Petersburg and other parts of Russia, hereby condemns the action of the Russian Government in forbidding emigrants to settle with the workers, expels its representative with its German comrades in their attempt to improve their working conditions especially as regards the hours of labour, and promises to do all in its power to render financial and moral support."

H. J. Walker writes a longish letter re. Kair's notes on E. J. Dobson's case. He asserts: 1, That Dobson left the S.D.F. because he might run as a Progressive candidate for the Vestry; 2, The branch had no objection to the Progressives running him if he stood as an avowed Socialist; 3, Dobson, though a Progressive, backed out of this arrangement, when Dobson resigned his membership of the S.D.F., and ran as a Progressive. 3, In this action he was going contrary to the I.L.P., as well as the S.D.F. policy, since the Birmingham I.L.P. expelled a member for the same offence, as Dobson was guilty of. 4, That the Peckham branch did wrong to put Dobson forward as chairman of the Peckham Ry meeting, whilst the S.D.F. were smarting under the wrong he had done them; and 5, that unless Dobson can free himself from the charges levelled against him, the EC of the London district should take action, so as to prevent a charge of favouritism being levelled against the movement. Mr. Chas. Portman, writing on the same subject, says the *Leader* report of the notes at the meeting was exaggerated, and charges the members of the Peckham branch with lack of discretion in putting him forward as chairman.

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SOME Socialists have been nominated by the branches of the Yorkshire Miner's Association to attend the International Congress, **WHAT PRICE?**—Spençence a copy was being offered in Manchester last Saturday for the *Labour Leader* containing the account of Bogart Ho' Clough and cartoon thereon.

THE SAME EVERYWHERE.—Already a Johannesburg correspondent writes: "The chances for a poor man making money here are gone." Everywhere the people are in the clutches of capitalism.

RUSSIAN STRIKE.—F. Volkovskiy reports that the St. Petersburg strikers have appealed to their Moscow comrades, and that a meeting of the latter, counting 200 workmen, has been passed condemning the action of the Corporation in connection with the Bogart Ho' Clough meeting.

PROPAGANDA IN FIFE.—S. D. Shallard, delivered his lecture "Workers and Strikers" to the Windygates group, Fifeshire. County Councillor T. P. Gordon, proprietor and editor of *The Scottish Poultry Journal*, occupied the chair, and gave a brief and spirited address at the close.

A MINER'S MISFORTUNE.—A Barnsley miner had the misfortune to lose his sight. Since then his wife has died, and left him with five children to depend on the cold hand of charity. A benefit concert at the Labour Club resulted £6 profit, but the members think if Socialism was in operation the state would provide for cases of this kind.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS SUNDAY DEMONSTRATION.—The final delegate meeting will be held at the S.D.F. Hall, 337 Strand, on Sunday, 19th July, at 11 a.m. All Labour organisations are earnestly requested to send delegates. Those societies who have not yet paid the affiliation fee (minimum 5s.), or who have yet nominated speakers, are asked to send the money and names to me immediately.—**EDWARD BURROWS, Secy., Demonstration Committee, 19 Buckingham St., Strand, W.C.**

A PROTEST AGAINST THAT KIND OF THING.—Speaking on the Address in Reply in the N.S.W. Assembly, the leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, M'Gowan said:

"The Labour Party have never manifested little spirit, but a clear and distinct sense of justice. Those people thought Lazarus should appropriate more now as he did of old, and that Dives was as unattractive now as of old. And there were unemployed five years ago as well as to-day. He showed by deputations to Ministers that strong men were working 10 hours a day on Government work for 2s. a day, and the answer then was that wages were coming down, for this young country was being brought by the competitive system and by boasted private enterprise to the level of the old countries of the world, and the presence of the Labour Party was a protest against that kind of thing."

YORK BAKERS AT HOLBORN.—York Bakers and Confectioners at their half-yearly meeting elected Brother Shand of Hull auditor, and Brother Close of Bradford trustee. The latter was also recommended to the members throughout the district as delegate for the National Executive Council. It was decided not to send any delegate to the forthcoming Trade Union Congress in Edinburgh.

After the meeting was over two were sent by

by the bakers, together with the general secretary of the Union, J. Jenkins, and a number of Leeds, Holbeck, and Halifax members, the tea and the meeting which followed being held for the purpose of presenting George Kay, the late president of the district, with a marble timepiece and bronze ornaments, together with a silver tea service for Mrs. Kay, the whole being presented as a token of regard by the members of the district for the very valuable assistance he has rendered to the Union during the many years he has been connected with it. Brother Jenkins made the presentation. The president, Edwin Halford of Bradford, opened the meeting with a few remarks, urging on the members present the desirability of following up their duties as trade-unions by a better organisation with its branches co-operating in a position to Parliament in favour of legislation for the taxation of ground values."

Mr. L. PHILLMORE, member of St. Pancras Vestry, moved and carried, by 45 votes to 5, the following resolution: "That this vestry do approach the other vestries and district boards of the metropolis with a view to co-operating in a position to Parliament in favour of legislation for the taxation of ground values."

The Battersea Vestry makes a sick-pay allowance to its employees. For a period not exceeding 13 weeks, half pay; for a further period not exceeding 13 weeks, quarter pay. If any employee be incapacitated as a consequence of vestry work, full pay is granted for twelve months, 10s. after that time, just special grant in case of total disablement.

The Strand Board of Works is tracking noblegame. Lord Salisbury is the owner of an insatiable area at the back of Daly's Theatre, which he has leased to Mr. Kirk for £1340 per annum. "A malodorous trench, containing nine feet of stagnant water," is part of the Premier's property, and Mr. Kirk repudiates liability for this, on the ground that Lord Salisbury has taken possession. The latter's solicitors, however, take another view of the matter, for in spite of letters they have made no reply either to Mr. Kirk or to the Strand Board of Works. It is possible that the Board will take action directly against the Premier.

The Works Department of the L.C.C. has made a profit of £4332 10s. 7d. during the half-year ended 31st March, 1896, on nineteen undertakings.

The U.K.A.'s annual report and the new valuation of London come together. From a comparison of the two the following table is constructed:

FACTS.

In answer to a correspondent Mr. Chamberlain has made the following reply: "June, 26th—I am directed by Mr. Chamberlain to say that he has never made any promise to bring in an Old-Age Pension Bill, but that he recommended the appointment of an expert committee to consider the details of this most complicated subject. The Government have agreed to appoint the committee, and the names of the members will be announced very shortly."

THE result of the late referendum on the education question in South Australia was a three-to-one majority in favour of the continuance of the existing system of State education; a two-to-one majority against the introduction of Scriptural instruction; and a four-to-one majority against any payment being made to denominational schools for secular results.

The number of lives lost by mine explosions during the last few years is as follows:

1890	519
1891	76
1892	146
1893	175
1894	329
1895	76
1896 (January to June)	109

Sir J. Blundell-Mapple, M.P., introducing a deputation into the House of Commons, on 8th June, said there were 30,000 women engaged in the mineral-water trade in London alone, and Messrs. White's output of bottles in one week varied between 3,000,000 and 1,000,000 in the summer months, and they had 600 men employed. If payment were granted to them to do the light work of bottling, labelling, corking and washing, then men would have to be substituted. The Home Secretary promised to do what he could for the trade.

There are now 890 women guardians serving throughout England and Wales and 40 in Scotland.

The Bishop of Stepney, in moving the adoption of the report of the London Mandidy Society, which the Queen shrewdly supports, said they ought to be very thankful that the poor were always with them. Nothing brought home to them so much their own favourable circumstances as the real tales of pitiable distress which the poverty-striken revealed, and it was their duty to relieve that distress. He could bear testimony to the heroism with which the honest and deserving poor grappled with poverty. When he assumed the charge of the district, including a vast agglomeration of the very poor, he presumed that he would be continually "spangled" upon, but, as was the case, not once, going about as he did, he never met any one who asked for alms, money, or food. In the Commercial Road and the Old Kent Road the moral atmosphere at night was clearer than it was in the greatest thoroughfares of the West-End. (9th June.)

Mr. L. PHILLMORE, member of St. Pancras Vestry, moved and carried, by 45 votes to 5, the following resolution: "That this vestry do approach the other vestries and district boards of the metropolis with a view to co-operating in a position to Parliament in favour of legislation for the taxation of ground values."

The Battersea Vestry makes a sick-pay allowance to its employees. For a period not exceeding 13 weeks, half pay; for a further period not exceeding 13 weeks, quarter pay. If any employee be incapacitated as a consequence of vestry work, full pay is granted for twelve months, 10s. after that time, just special grant in case of total disablement.

The Strand Board of Works is tracking noblegame. Lord Salisbury is the owner of an insatiable area at the back of Daly's Theatre, which he has leased to Mr. Kirk for £1340 per annum. "A malodorous trench, containing nine feet of stagnant water," is part of the Premier's property, and Mr. Kirk repudiates liability for this, on the ground that Lord Salisbury has taken possession. The latter's solicitors, however, take another view of the matter, for in spite of letters they have made no reply either to Mr. Kirk or to the Strand Board of Works. It is possible that the Board will take action directly against the Premier.

The Works Department of the L.C.C. has made a profit of £4332 10s. 7d. during the half-year ended 31st March, 1896, on nineteen undertakings.

The U.K.A.'s annual report and the new valuation of London come together. From a comparison of the two the following table is constructed:

Population of London,	- - - - -	4,500,000
Drink bill, -	£16,378,487	0 0
Average per person, -	3 12	9½
Rent bill, -	35,832,465	10 0
Average per person, -	7 19	3½

Mr. W. P. Reeves, Agent-General for New Zealand, speaking at the Eighty Club on June 26th, said: "In New Zealand they had a

The Hyde Park Demonstration to be held on 25th July in favour of International Peace, will be addressed by several representatives of the foreign delegations to the Conference. Portraits of the speakers will appear in the Labour Leader of 25th July which will be a special number and enlarged. It is expected that this will be the largest demonstration in favour of Peace ever held in London.

The same everywhere.—Already a Johannesburg correspondent writes: "The chances for a poor man making money here are gone." Everywhere the people are in the clutches of capitalism.

THE result of the late referendum on the education question in South Australia was a three-to-one majority in favour of the continuance of the existing system of State education; a two-to-one majority against the introduction of Scriptural instruction; and a four-to-one majority against any payment being made to denominational schools for secular results.

The Liverpool Corporation supplies hot water at a half-penny a gallon through the "penny-in-the-slot" machines.

country that had not a single millionaire and in which a man who earned more than £10,000 a year was sufficiently well known to be pointed out as he walked along the streets. Nevertheless, it was a country in which extreme poverty was exceedingly rare, and in spite of the absence of millionaires the private wealth of the inhabitants per head was the second highest of any community on the earth, and it would be the highest were it not that the State owned the railways and other things which in other countries were in the hands of private owners. . . . One result of the enfranchisement of women had been to return to power the party who granted the franchise."

The Liverpool Corporation supplies hot water at a half-penny a gallon through the "penny-in-the-slot" machines.

FRIED ROD-FISHING.—A public meeting was held at Prudhoe 25th inst., demanding free rod-fishing. John Douglas in the chair, and all he did his duty, hitting Fishmonger and Game Law heavy with sound reasoning. Mr. Robert Phillips, chairman Union Lodge, Prudhoe, moved: "That as water and fish are neither of them fixed properties, I beg to propose that all rivers and their tributaries be thrown open to the public, along with a clear right to walk on either side of all rivers and their tributaries, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Home Secretary, Local and other M.P.s." Mr. James Nixon, secretary, Prudhoe Lodge Miners' Union (755 members), seconded. Mr. W. F. F. Robertson, of Hexham, supported. This is three times he has spoken at Prudhoe. Every time he is speaking you can hear a pin drop.

I.L.P. DIRECTORY.

A MARVELLUS PRODUCTION.—Is a specimen for 1896. Ask your connoisseurs whether they have ever seen anything like it. It is a book bound in a cover of gold, 10s. net; paper, 1s.; postage, 3d. 1896 issue same price. Double volumes, 1895-96, 18s. 1895 price. Double volumes, 1895-96, cloth gilt, 1s. 6d. net; postage, 3d. 1895 price. Gold gilt, 1s. 6d. net; postage, 3d. not postage 1d. Calendar, 1896, 16 pages, 1d. by post 1d. To Clubs, 10s. carrying 1s. Ask to see copy at your next meeting. —Secretary, Mr. W. Sanders, of Hexham.

A STON AND DISTRICT (BIRMINGHAM) I.L.P.—Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

BALFOUR IN YORKSHIRE.—Business Meeting every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in Central Hall, Speke. Speaker, Mr. David F. Davies, of Liverpool.

STANLEY I.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON I.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON II.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON III.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON IV.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON V.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON VI.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON VII.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON VIII.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

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WIGSTON XII.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON XIII.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON XIV.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON XV.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON XVI.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

WIGSTON XVII.L.P.—Business Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Birmingham. —Secretary, Mr. J. H. Alcock, Birmingham.

I.L.P. DIRECTORY—Continued.

KILBURN AND HAMPSTEAD BRANCH.—Open Air Meetings every Sunday Morning at 11.30 a.m. and Evening at 7.30 p.m. at the Hampstead Town Hall, 229 Hampstead Road.

LIVERPOOL (WEST DERBY BRANCH).—I.L.P.—Every Day School, 229 Derby Road, Liverpool.

LONDON (NORTH PADDOCK) I.L.P.—Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the North Paddington Hall, 360 Westbourne Park Station.

MANCHESTER (NORTH RAFT) I.L.P.—Meeting every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the North Raft, 30 Oldham Road.

MANCHESTER LABOUR CHURCH.—Booth St., East, Oxford Street.

MARYLEBONE BRANCH.—Business Meeting, every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Workmen's Hall, 49 Tavistock Street.

MARYLEBONE ON-THE-THAMES I.L.P.—Open Air Meetings every Saturday at 7.30 p.m. at the Marylebone on the Thames.

NEWCASTLE ON-THE-THAMES I.L.P.—Open Air Meetings every Saturday at 7.30 p.m. at the Marylebone on the Thames.

NOTTINGHAM (SOUTHERN DIVISION) I.L.P.—Meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Nottingham.

NOTTINGHAM LABOUR CHURCH (ADJACENT TO THE FOREST) I.L.P.—Meetings every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Forest Hall, 200 Corporation Street, Nottingham.

PALISLEY I.L.P.—Rooms, 111 Palace Street, Palisley.

PASHFIELD (ATLANTIC BRANCH) I.L.P.—Sunday Afternoon Meetings at 3 p.m. at the Atlantic Club, 100 Pashfield Street, Pashfield.

PECKHAM CENTRAL I.L.P.—Temporary Hall, 180 Peckham Road.

PECKHAM CENTRAL I.L.P.—Temporary